

**Waseda University Global COE Program,
'Global Institute for Asian Regional Integration'
Investigative Research Assistance Achievement Report**

Affiliation	GSAPS	Year	2 nd Year	Name	Nguyen Thuy Anh
Itinerary	03/17/2009 ~ 03/27/2008 (Month/Date/Year)				
Destination (Name of city and country)					
Atlanta and South Carolina, USA					

Research objectives

The main purpose of this trip is to attend and make a presentation at the Comparative and International Education Society (CIES) 2009 conference in Charleston, South Carolina, USA. The second objective is to have field trip in some universities such as Emory University, Atlanta State University, State University of Atlanta and some other places in Atlanta. Further more, to attend, present in joint seminars with international students as well as to build up net work and academic relationships and discuss with researchers, scholars and students from different countries are also the goals of this trip.

Research project

Internationalization of Higher Education in Vietnam: Is Vietnam moving more towards Asian Regional Cooperation and Integration?

Over the last two decades, globalization has become an irreversible and the most influential process which takes place in almost all fields of the human life and undoubtedly education is also one of these impacted sectors. While globalization is seen as an objective and unalterable process, internationalization is considered to be a response of countries and higher educational institutions all over the world to this process.

The recent years have witnessed remarkable growth of student mobility amongst East Asian countries and increasing number of inter-university linkages within the region. East Asia is a vast and diverse region in terms of ethnicity, culture, language, religions, political regimes, socioeconomic development and topography. In the field of higher education, varieties between East Asian countries are also remarkable. However, despite these diversities and varieties, higher educational systems in East Asia are also facing with similar problems and challenges. Therefore, it is meaningful to build up closer cooperation within the region in order for these countries to develop mutual understanding, share lessons of experience and to support countries in need to solve persistent problems and overcome obstacles to develop their higher education systems.

Since its adoption of the "Doi Moi" policy in 1986, Vietnam, an East Asian developing country, has been in a dual process of transitioning from a central planned economy to a socialism oriented market economy and integrating into a rapidly changing world. Along with the open door policy and market-oriented reforms, in recent years, Vietnam has accelerated its international integration in many fields of the socio-economy, including education. In the field of higher education, Vietnam has achieved remarkable progress in terms of magnitude, quality and efficiency, contributing to narrowing the lagging gap with regional countries. However, like many other systems in the region, higher educational system of Vietnam is also struggling with a range of chronic and emerging problems and challenges. While internationalization is identified to be one of the utmost priorities at both national and institutional levels in the higher educational development and reform strategies and policies of Vietnam, it is meaningful and necessary for Vietnam to strengthen and accelerate

cooperation and collaboration with other East Asian countries in the field. The paper aims at studying the Asian regional cooperation and integration trend in the internationalization of higher education in Vietnam from 1991.

The paper will first analyze the realities and future cooperation trends and possibilities amongst Asian countries and universities in their higher education internationalization strategies. Secondly, it will examine the internationalization of higher education in Vietnam and its Asian regional cooperation and integration trend. Thirdly, the research will propose implications for the Vietnamese government and higher educational institutions on their future direction and strategies for internationalization.

Achievement

In the first half of the trip, from March 18th to March 20th, I had opportunities to visit some university campuses in Atlanta such as Georgia State University, Emory University. This trip has broadened my practical knowledge and experiences about the study, life and activities of domestic as well as international students in US higher education institutions in the process of internationalization.

The second half of the trip, I attended the Comparative and International Education Society (CIES) 2009 conference in Charleston, South Carolina, from March 21st to 27th. The theme of this annual conference this year is “The Politics of Comparison”. This conference was divided into many sessions with to various issues in comparative and international education. I have participated in different sessions, especially in panels related to globalization, internationalization and regional cooperation in the field of higher education. Via this conference, I also had a chance to discuss and establish relationships with many scholars, researchers and students all over the world. This was a precious opportunity for me to learn from and to share my ideas and research results with researchers and practitioners.

On March 22nd, 2009, I made a presentation titled: “East Asian cooperation and integration in higher education: Role of regional organizations”. The purpose of this paper is firstly, to analyze the current status of East Asian regional integration and cooperation in the field of higher education by looking at such aspects as staff/students mobility, exchange programs, different types of cross-border education, and other contents of internationalization; secondly, to examine how regional organizations like SEAMEO, RIHED, UMAP, AUN have contributed to accelerating this process at both national and institutional level; finally, based on these analyses, the paper puts forward some proposals to enhance the role of these organizations in promoting cooperation and integration among East Asian countries and higher education institutions. Data and information analyzed in the paper were collected through a field trip to each organization of which the author interviewed with administrators in order to have insights into the activities and strategies of these organizations and to search for their opinions and evaluations on the prospect of East Asian integration in the field. The paper concludes that these organizations have made significant endeavors to promote regional higher education cooperation and integration. However, in order to accelerate this process, more effective and comprehensive measures need to be implemented and stronger commitments should be made by countries and institutions in the region.

Confirmed by person in charge of project promotion (signature and seal)

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